



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please ADD new claims 84-314, as follows:

1 to 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and approximately centrally located along said at least one of said bearing surfaces, said flange having a length extending along said at least one bearing surface and a width tapering along at least a portion of said length in a direction parallel to said at least one of said bearing surfaces.

42. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, wherein said tapering width of said flange facilitates wedging engagement of said flange within a preformed opening defined in a corresponding one of the first and second vertebrae.

43. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 42, wherein said flange has a leading insertion end defining a beveled edge to facilitate insertion of said flange into said preformed opening.

44. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, wherein said flange has a leading insertion end and a trailing end, said width tapering outwardly from said leading end toward said trailing end.

45. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, further comprising a bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone growth with said flange.

46. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 45, wherein said flange is coated with said bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone on-growth.

47. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces, said flange having a length extending along said at least one bearing surface and a width tapering in a direction along at least a portion of said length, and wherein said flange defines at least one opening extending therethrough to permit bone through-growth.

48. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, wherein at least one of said flange projects from each of said first and second bearing surfaces.

49. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.

50. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 49, wherein at least one of said first and second articular surfaces includes at least one surface depression configured to facilitate removal of matter disposed between abutting portions of said first and second articular surfaces.

51 to 61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 63, wherein each of said first and second flanges has a length extending along said at least one bearing surface, said width tapering in a direction along at least a portion of said length.

63. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a first flange projecting from said first bearing surface;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra;  
a second flange projecting from said second bearing surface; and  
wherein each of said first and second flanges has a tapering width and defines at least one opening extending therethrough to permit bone through-growth.

64. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 63, further comprising a bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone growth with said flange.

65. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 63, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion, at least one of said first and second articular surfaces including at least one surface depression configured to facilitate removal of matter disposed between abutting portions of said first and second articular surfaces.

66 to 67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and defining, at least one opening extending through said flange to permit bone through-growth.

69. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 68, wherein said flange defines a plurality of said at least one opening.

70. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 68, wherein at least a portion of said flange is coated with a bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone growth with said flange.

71. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 68, wherein at least one of said flange projects from each of said first and second bearing surfaces.

72. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 68, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.

73. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and extending along at least about one half of said at least one of said bearing surfaces in a direction other than an anterior-posterior direction when the intervertebral prosthetic joint is inserted between the first and second vertebrae.

74. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 73, wherein said flange extends in a lateral direction when the intervertebral prosthetic joint is inserted between the first and second vertebrae.

75. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and extending in a direction other than an anterior-posterior direction when the intervertebral prosthetic joint is inserted between the first and second vertebrae, said flange defining at least one opening extending therethrough to permit bone growth through said flange.

76. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 73, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.

77. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and adapted for positioning in a slot formed in one of the first and second vertebrae, said flange defining at least one opening extending therethrough; and  
a bone screw engaged between the intervertebral prosthetic joint and one of the first and second vertebrae to resist displacement of the intervertebral prosthetic joint.

78. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 77, wherein said at least one opening permits bone growth through said flange.

79. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 77, wherein said bone screw is engaged with said flange.

80. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 77, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.

81. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 73, wherein said flange extends substantially entirely along said at least one of said bearing surfaces.

82. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 73, wherein said flange is approximately centrally located along said at least one of said bearing surfaces.

83. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 77, wherein said flange is approximately centrally located along said at least one of said bearing surfaces.

84. (New) An intervertebral implant insertable between adjacent vertebrae, comprising,

an upper part having an upper surface for engaging a vertebrae and a lower surface which includes a rounded portion,

a lower part having a lower surface for engaging a vertebrae and an upper surface portion in operative engagement with the rounded portion of the upper part,

said implant being constructed to be the sole implant in its intervertebral space,

the implant having a lead end which leads as the implant is inserted along a path into the intervertebral space and a trailing end opposite the lead end, and lateral planes which pass through the outermost boundaries of the implant and parallel to the said path, and

a single anchor on each of the upper surface of the upper part and the lower surface of the lower part, each said anchor being elongated, having a height greater than its width, and located along a line parallel to said path, the two anchors lying essentially in the same vertical plane, which plane is essentially midway between said lateral planes, each said anchor being adapted to enter a groove in the adjacent vertebrae as the implant moves along said path into the intervertebral space, to anchor its respective part to the vertebrae which its surface engages.

85. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 84, wherein the rounded portion of the upper part is concave and the upper surface portion of the lower part is convex.

86. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 84, wherein the height of at least one anchor is greater than the height of the remainder of its respective part.

87. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 86, wherein each anchor is greater in height than the remainder of its respective part.

88. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 84, the length of at least one anchor in the direction along the midline being greater than one half of the entire front to rear dimension of its respective part.

89. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 88, wherein the length of both anchors in the direction along the midline are greater than one half of the entire front to rear dimension of their respective upper or lower part.

90. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 84, wherein the rounded portion of the upper part and the upper surface portion of the lower part are spherical.

91. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 84, the upper and lower parts, in plan view, being generally rectangular.

92. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 91, wherein the single anchors are substantially parallel to the shorter sides of the generally rectangular shape of the upper and lower parts.

93. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 84, wherein the rounded portion of the upper part is partially spherical and concave, and the upper surface portion of the lower part is partially spherical and convex.

94. (New) An intervertebral implant insertable between adjacent vertebrae, comprising,

a generally rectangular upper part having an upper surface for engaging a vertebrae and a lower surface which includes a rounded portion,

a generally rectangular lower part having a lower surface for engaging a vertebrae and having an upper surface portion in operative engagement with the rounded portion of the upper part,

said implant being constructed to be the sole implant in its intervertebral space, one of the longer sides of the generally rectangular upper and lower parts comprising a leading end and the other of the longer sides of the generally rectangular upper and lower parts being a trailing end as the implant is moved in an insertion direction to be inserted into the intervertebral space, and

a single anchor on each of the upper surface of the upper part and the lower surface of the lower part, the two single anchors being elongated, each having a height greater than its width, and the two single anchors lying in essentially the same vertical plane, which plane is located essentially midway between the short sides of the generally rectangular upper and lower parts and thus parallel to the insertion direction, and each anchor being adapted to enter a groove in the adjacent vertebrae as the implant moves in said insertion direction into the intervertebral space, to anchor its respective part to the vertebrae which its surface engages.

95. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 94, wherein the rounded portion of the upper part is concave and the upper surface portion of the lower part is convex.

96. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 94, wherein the height of at least one anchor is greater than the height of the remainder of its respective part.

97. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 96, wherein each anchor is greater in height than the remainder of its respective part.

98. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 94, the length of at least one anchor in the insertion direction being greater than one half of the entire dimension of its respective part in the insertion direction from said leading end to said trailing end.

99. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 98, wherein the length of both anchors in the insertion direction are greater than one half of the entire dimension of their respective upper or lower part in the insertion direction from said leading end to said trailing end.

100. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 94, wherein the rounded portion of the upper part and the upper surface portion of the lower part are spherical.

101. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 94, wherein the rounded portion of the upper part is partially spherical and concave, and the upper surface portion of the lower part is partially spherical and convex.

102. (New) An intervertebral implant comprising:  
a first part having an outer surface adapted for engaging a first vertebra;  
a second part having an outer surface adapted for engaging a second vertebra;  
the first and second parts adapted for operative engagement with each other;  
wherein the first and second parts each have midlines on their respective outer surfaces passing essentially through the center of the outer surface of the respective part;  
an anchor extending outwardly essentially from a midline of the outer surface of the first part, the anchor being adapted to enter a groove in the first vertebra as the implant moves into an intervertebral space;  
an anchor extending outwardly essentially from a midline of the outer surface of the second part, the anchor being adapted to enter a groove in the second vertebra as the implant moves into an intervertebral space; and  
wherein at least one of the anchors has a height greater than its width.

103. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein each anchor has a height greater than its width.

104. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 103, wherein at least one anchor is elongated along said midline of the outer surface of its respective part.

105. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 104, wherein each anchor is elongated along said midline of the outer surface of its respective part.

106. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 105, wherein each anchor is elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of the implant.

107. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 106, the implant having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein each anchor is elongated in an anterior to posterior plane of the implant.

108. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 103, wherein the two anchors lie essentially along a common plane passing through each of the respective midlines.

109. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 103, wherein at least one anchor is perpendicular to the outer surface of its respective part.

110. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 109, wherein each anchor is perpendicular to the outer surface of its respective part.

111. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 103, wherein the first and second parts of the implant are adapted for implantation together along a path of insertion into an intervertebral space.

112. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 111, the implant having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein said path of insertion is in an anterior to posterior direction.

113. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 111, wherein the anchors are essentially coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that the anchors of the first and second parts of the implant can be inserted together along a path of insertion into respective essentially vertically aligned grooves in the first and second vertebrae.

114. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 113, wherein the first and second parts are operatively engaged to allow pivotability of said first part relative to said second part.

115. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 113, wherein the first and second parts are operatively engaged to allow articulating motion between said first and second parts.

116. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein at least one outer surface of the respective parts is adapted for contacting its respective vertebra.

117. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein at least one outer surface of the respective parts is adapted for anchoring to its respective vertebra.

118. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein the first and second parts includes a convex surface on one of the parts adapted for engaging with a mating concave surface on the other part.

119. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein the implant is adapted for use as a total disc replacement.

120. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein the implant is constructed to be the sole implant in its intervertebral space.

121. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein the anchors are essentially coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that the two anchors

can be inserted into respective essentially vertically aligned grooves formed in the first and second vertebrae.

122. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein the height of at least one anchor is greater than the height of the remainder of its respective first or second part.

123. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 122, wherein each anchor is greater in height than the height of the remainder of its respective first or second part.

124. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein the overall length of at least one anchor in the direction of a path of insertion of the implant is greater than one half of the overall dimension of its respective first or second part in the direction of insertion.

125. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 124, wherein the overall length of each anchor in the direction of the path of insertion of the implant is greater than one half of the overall dimension of its respective first or second part in the direction of insertion.

126. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, the implant having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein the overall anterior to posterior length of each anchor is greater than one half of the overall anterior to posterior dimension of its respective first or second part.

127. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein at least one anchor is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from the outer surface of its respective part.

128. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein at least one anchor is a single piece elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of the implant.

129. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 128, wherein both anchors are single pieces elongated in respective planes that are parallel to the path of insertion of the implant.

130. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein at least one anchor is elongated along and straddles said midline of the outer surface of its respective part.

131. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 130, wherein both anchors are elongated along and straddle said midline of the outer surface of its respective part.

132. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein one or more of the first part outer surface or the second part outer surface further comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the respective outer surface with a height no greater than the width of the protrusion.

133. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein one or more of the first part outer surface or the second part outer surface further comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the respective surface with a height substantially less than the height of the anchor of the respective surface.

134. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 102, wherein at least one of the first and second parts is, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

135. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 134, wherein both of the first and second parts are, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

136. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant, which component is adapted to cooperate with at least one other component to form an intervertebral implant, the component comprising:

an outer surface adapted to engage a first vertebra and an inner surface adapted to operatively engage another component of the implant, wherein the component has midlines on the outer surface passing essentially through the center of the outer surface; and

an anchor extending outwardly essentially from a midline of the outer surface with a height greater than its width and adapted to enter a groove in the first vertebra as the component moves into an intervertebral space.

137. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the anchor is elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of the component.

138. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 137, wherein the overall length of the anchor in the direction of the path of insertion of the component is greater than one half of the overall dimension of the component in the direction of insertion.

139. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the anchor is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from the outer surface of the part.

140. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, the component having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein said midline is at an anterior to posterior plane of the component.

141. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, the component having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein the anchor is elongated in an anterior to posterior plane of the component.

142. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 141, wherein the anterior to posterior plane is essentially at said midline.

143. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 142, wherein the overall anterior to posterior length of the anchor is greater than one half of the overall anterior to posterior dimension of the component.

144. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the anchor is elongated along and straddles the midline.

145. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the anchor is perpendicular to the outer surface.

146. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the outer surface of the component is adapted for contacting the vertebrae.

147. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the height of the anchor is greater than the height of the remainder of the component.

148. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the outer surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from surface with a height no greater than the width of the protrusion.

149. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the outer surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the surface with a height substantially less than the height of the anchor.

150. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the component is, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

151. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 136, wherein the component has a second surface in opposed relation to said outer surface, the second surface being adapted to engage said other component of said intervertebral implant.

152. (New) An intervertebral implant comprising:  
a first part having an outer surface adapted for engaging a first vertebra;  
a second part having an outer surface adapted for engaging a second vertebra;  
the first and second parts adapted for operative engagement with each other;  
wherein the first and second parts each have midlines on their respective outer surfaces passing essentially through the center of the outer surface of the respective part;  
an anchor extending outwardly essentially from a midline of the outer surface of the first part, wherein said anchor is elongated along and straddles said midline;  
an anchor extending outwardly essentially from a midline of the outer surface of the second part, wherein said anchor is elongated along and straddles said midline; and  
wherein at least one of the anchors has a height greater than its width.

153. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein at least one anchor is adapted to enter a groove in the first or second vertebra as the implant moves into an intervertebral space.

154. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 153, wherein each anchor is adapted to enter a groove in the first or second vertebra as the implant moves into an intervertebral space.

155. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein each anchor has a height greater than its width.

156. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 155, the implant having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein each anchor is elongated in an anterior to posterior plane of the implant.

157. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 155, wherein the two anchors lie essentially along a common plane passing through each of the respective midlines.

158. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 155, wherein at least one anchor is perpendicular to the outer surface of its respective part.

159. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 158, wherein each anchor is perpendicular to the outer surface of its respective part.

160. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 155, wherein the first and second parts of the implant are adapted for implantation together along a path of insertion into an intervertebral space.

161. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 160, the implant having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein said path of insertion is in an anterior to posterior direction.

162. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 160, wherein the anchors are essentially coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that the anchors of the first and second parts of the implant can be inserted together along a path of insertion into respective essentially vertically aligned grooves in the first and second vertebrae.

163. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 162, wherein the first and second parts are operatively engaged to allow pivotability of said first part relative to said second part.

164. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 162, wherein the first and second parts are operatively engaged to allow articulating motion between said first and second parts.

165. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein at least one outer surface of the respective parts is adapted for contacting its respective vertebra.

166. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein at least one outer surface of the respective parts is adapted for anchoring to its respective vertebra.

167. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein the first and second parts includes a convex surface on one of the parts for engaging with a mating concave surface on the other part.

168. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein the implant is adapted for use as a total disc replacement.

169. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein the implant is constructed to be the sole implant in its intervertebral space.

170. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein the anchors are essentially coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that the two anchors can be inserted into respective essentially vertically aligned grooves formed in the first and second vertebrae.

171. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein the height of at least one anchor is greater than the height of the remainder of its respective first or second part.

172. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 171, wherein each anchor is greater in height than the height of the remainder of its respective first or second part.

173. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein the overall length of at least one anchor in the direction of a path of insertion of the implant is greater than one half of the overall dimension of its respective first or second part in the direction of insertion.

174. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 173, wherein the overall length of each anchor in the direction of the path of insertion of the implant is greater than one half of the overall dimension of its respective first or second part in the direction of insertion.

175. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, the implant having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein the overall anterior to posterior length of each anchor is greater than one half of the overall anterior to posterior dimension of its respective first or second part.

176. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein at least one anchor is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from the outer surface of its respective part.

177. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein at least one anchor is a single piece elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of the implant.

178. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 177, wherein both anchors are single pieces elongated in respective planes that are parallel to the path of insertion of the implant.

179. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein one or more of the first part outer surface or the second part outer surface further comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the respective outer surface with a height no greater than the width of the protrusion.

180. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein one or more of the first part outer surface or the second part outer surface further comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the respective surface with a height substantially less than the height of the anchor of the respective surface.

181. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 152, wherein at least one of the first and second parts is, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

182. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 181, wherein both of the first and second parts are, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

183. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant, which component is adapted to cooperate with at least one other component to form an intervertebral implant, the component comprising:

an outer surface adapted to engage a first vertebra and an inner surface adapted to operatively engage another component of the implant, wherein the component has midlines on the outer surface passing essentially through the center of the outer surface; and

an anchor extending outwardly essentially from a midline of the outer surface with a height greater than its width, wherein said anchor is elongated along and straddles said midline.

184. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein said anchor is elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of the component.

185. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 184, wherein the overall length of the anchor in the direction of the path of insertion of the component is greater than one half of the overall dimension of the component in the direction of insertion.

186. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the anchor is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from the outer surface of the part.

187. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the overall anterior to posterior length of the anchor is greater than one half of the overall anterior to posterior dimension of the component.

188. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the anchor is perpendicular to the outer surface.

189. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the outer surface of the component is adapted for contacting the vertebrae.

190. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the anchor is adapted to enter a groove in the first vertebra as the component moves into an intervertebral space.

191. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the height of the anchor is greater than the height of the remainder of the component.

192. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the outer surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from surface with a height no greater than the width of the protrusion.

193. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the outer surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the surface with a height substantially less than the height of the anchor.

194. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the component is, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

195. (New) A component for an intervertebral implant according to claim 183, wherein the component has a second surface in opposed relation to said outer surface, the second surface being adapted to engage said other component of said intervertebral implant.

196. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first component having a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra, and having a first articular surface including a recess;

a second component having a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra, and having a second articular surface including a projection, the recess of the first articular surface being in articulating engagement with the projection of the second articular surface, and the first vertebra being adjacent the second vertebra to provide an intervertebral space;

said prosthetic joint having an insertion end, which leads as said prosthetic joint is inserted into the intervertebral space, and a trailing end opposite the insertion end;

a first single flange, said first single flange extending from the first bearing surface of said first component; and

a second single flange, said second single flange extending from the second bearing surface of said second component,

wherein each of said first and second single flanges (i) is approximately centrally located along its respective bearing surface and extends from a location adjacent the insertion end toward another location adjacent the trailing end of said prosthetic joint, and (ii) is configured for disposition within a first preformed opening in the first vertebra and a second preformed opening in the second vertebra, respectively.

197. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein said first and second single flanges extend approximately perpendicularly from the first and second bearing surfaces, respectively, and lie in substantially the same plane.

198. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein said first and second single flanges extend perpendicularly from the first and second bearing surfaces, respectively, and lie in the same plane.

199. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein at least one of said first and second single flanges has a height greater than its width.

200. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein said first single flange is configured so as to wedge said first component into the first preformed

opening in the first vertebra, and said second single flange is configured so as to wedge said second component into the second preformed opening in the second vertebra.

201. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein said first single flange is configured so as to anchor said first component to the first vertebra, and said second single flange is configured so as to anchor said second component to the second vertebra.

202. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein said prosthetic joint is sized and shaped to substantially correspond to the size and shape of a vertebral endplate of at least one of the first and second vertebra.

203. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein said prosthetic joint is constructed to be the sole prosthetic joint in the intervertebral space.

204. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein the recess is concave and the protrusion is convex.

205. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein the height of at least one of said first and second single anchors is greater than the height of the remainder of said first and second components, respectively.

206. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 205, wherein each of said first and second single anchors is greater in height than the remainder of said first and second components, respectively.

207. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein the length of at least one of said first and second single flanges is greater than one half of the distance between the insertion end and the trailing end.

208. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 207, wherein the length of both said first and second single flanges is greater than one half of the distance between the insertion end and the trailing end.

209. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein each of the recess and projection is spherical.

210. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein each of said first and second components, in plan view, is generally rectangular.

211. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 210, wherein both said first and second single flanges is parallel to the shorter sides of the rectangular shape of said first and second components.

212. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, wherein the recess is partially spherical and concave, and the projection is partially spherical and convex.

213. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a generally rectangular first component having a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra, and having a first articular surface including a recess;

a generally rectangular second component having a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra, and having a second articular surface including a projection, the recess of the first articular surface being in articulating engagement with the projection of the second articular surface, and the first vertebra being adjacent the second vertebra to provide an intervertebral space;

said prosthetic joint having an insertion end, which leads as said prosthetic joint is inserted into the intervertebral space, and a trailing end opposite the insertion end;

a first single flange extending approximately perpendicularly from the first bearing surface of said first component; and

a second single flange extending approximately perpendicularly from the second bearing surface of said second component,

wherein each of said first and second single flanges (i) is approximately centrally located along its respective bearing surface and extends from a location adjacent the insertion end toward another location adjacent the trailing end of said prosthetic joint, (ii) lies in the same plane; (iii) has a height greater than its width; and (iv) is configured for disposition within a first preformed opening in the first vertebra and a second preformed opening in the second vertebra, respectively, to wedge said first and second components into the first and second preformed openings, respectively.

214. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 213, wherein said prosthetic joint is constructed to be the sole prosthetic joint in the intervertebral space.

215. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 213, wherein said prosthetic joint is sized and shaped to correspond to the size and shape of a vertebral endplate of at least one of the first and second vertebra.

216. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first component having a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second component having a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra;

said first and second components being in articulating engagement with each other, and having midlines on their respective bearing surfaces passing approximately through the center of the bearing surface of said respective component, the first vertebra being adjacent the second vertebra to provide an intervertebral space;

a first flange extending outwardly from the midline of the first bearing surface of said first component, said first flange being adapted to penetrate a first preformed opening in the first vertebra as said prosthetic joint moves into the intervertebral space; and

a second flange extending outwardly from the midline of the second bearing surface of said second component, said second flange being adapted to penetrate a second preformed opening in the second vertebra as said prosthetic joint moves into the intervertebral space;

wherein at least one of said first and second flanges has a height greater than its width.

217. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of (i) said first flange is a single flange and (ii) said second flange is a single flange.

218. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein each of said first and second flanges has a height greater than its width.

219. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 218, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges extends from a location adjacent an insertion end of said prosthetic joint toward another location adjacent a trailing end of said prosthetic joint and lies along the midline of the bearing surface of its respective component.

220. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 219, wherein each of said first and second flanges extends from a location adjacent an insertion end of said prosthetic joint toward another location adjacent a trailing end of said prosthetic joint and lies along the midline of the bearing surface of its respective component.

221. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 220, wherein each of said first and second flanges is elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of said prosthetic joint into the intervertebral space.

222. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 221, said prosthetic joint having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein each of said first and second flanges is elongated in an anterior to posterior plane of said prosthetic joint.

223. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 218, wherein both said first and second flanges lie along a common plane passing through each of the respective midlines.

224. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 218, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is perpendicular to the bearing surface of its respective component.

225. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 224, wherein each of said first and second flanges is perpendicular to the bearing surface of its respective component.

226. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 218, wherein said first and second components of said prosthetic joint are adapted for implantation together along a path of insertion into the intervertebral space.

227. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 226, said prosthetic joint having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein the path of insertion is in an anterior to posterior direction.

228. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 226, wherein both said first and second flanges are coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that said first flange of said first component and said second flange of said second component can be inserted together along the path of insertion into the first and second preformed openings in the first and second vertebra, respectively, with the first and second preformed openings being essentially vertically aligned with each other.

229. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 228, wherein said first and second components are operatively engaged to allow pivotability of said first component relative to said second component.

230. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 228, wherein said first and second components are in articulating engagement to allow articulating motion between said first and second components.

231. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of the first and second bearing surfaces is adapted for contacting its respective vertebra.

232. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of the first and second bearing surfaces is adapted for anchoring to its respective vertebra.

233. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, said first component comprising a concave recess, said second component comprising a convex projection, the concave recess and the convex projection being operatively engaged with each other.

234. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein said prosthetic joint is adapted for use as a total disc replacement.

235. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein said prosthetic joint is constructed to be the sole prosthetic joint in the intervertebral space.

236. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein both said first and second flanges are approximately coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that said first flange of said first component and said second flange of said second component can be inserted into the first and second preformed openings in the first and second vertebra, respectively, with the first and second preformed openings being vertically aligned with each other.

237. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein the height of at least one of said first and second flanges is greater than the height of the remainder of said first and second components, respectively.

238. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 237, wherein each of said first and second flanges is greater in height than the height of the remainder of said first and second components, respectively.

239. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein the overall length of at least one of said first and second flanges in the direction of a path of insertion of said prosthetic joint is greater than one half of the overall dimension of said first and second components, respectively, in the direction of insertion.

240. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 239, wherein the overall length of each of said first and second flanges in the direction of a path of insertion of said prosthetic joint is greater than one half of the overall dimension of said first and second components, respectively, in the direction of insertion.

241. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, said prosthetic joint having an insertion end and a trailing end, wherein the length of each of said first and second flanges is greater than one half of the distance between the insertion end and the trailing end.

242. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from its respective bearing surface.

243. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is a single piece elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of said prosthetic joint.

244. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 243, wherein both said first and second flanges are single pieces elongated in respective planes that are parallel to the path of insertion of said prosthetic joint.

245. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is elongated along and straddles the midline of the bearing surface of its respective component.

246. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 245, wherein each of said first and second flanges is elongated along and straddles the midline of the bearing surface of its respective component.

247. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of the first and second bearing surfaces comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the respective bearing surface with a height no greater than the width of the at least one protrusion.

248. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of the first and second bearing surfaces comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from the respective bearing surface with a height less than the height of said first and second flange, respectively.

249. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 216, wherein at least one of said first and second components, in plan view, is rectangular in shape.

250. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 249, wherein both of said first and second components, in plan view, are rectangular in shape.

251. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint, which component is adapted to cooperate with at least one other element to form an intervertebral prosthetic joint, said component comprising:

a bearing surface for engaging a vertebra and an articular surface for operatively engaging another element of said prosthetic joint, wherein said component has a midline on said bearing surface passing through the center of said bearing surface; and

a flange extending from the midline of said bearing surface, wherein said flange has a height greater than its width and is configured for disposition within a preformed opening in the vertebra as said component moves into an intervertebral space.

252. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said flange is elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of said component.

253. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 252, wherein the overall length of said flange in the direction of the path of insertion of said component is greater than one half of the overall dimension of said component in the direction of insertion.

254. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, said component having an insertion end and a trailing end, wherein the length of said flange is greater than one half of the distance between the insertion end and the trailing end.

255. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said flange is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from said bearing surface.

256. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, said component having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein the midline is at an anterior to posterior plane of said component.

257. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, said component having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein said flange is elongated in an anterior to posterior plane of said component.

258. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 257, wherein the anterior to posterior plane is approximately at the midline.

259. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 258, wherein the overall anterior to posterior length of said flange is greater than one half of the overall anterior to posterior dimension of said component.

260. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said flange is elongated along and straddles the midline.

261. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said flange is perpendicular to said bearing surface.

262. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said bearing surface is adapted for contacting the vertebra.

263. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein the height of said flange is greater than the height of the remainder of said component.

264. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said bearing surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from said bearing surface and said at least one protrusion has a height no greater than the width of the at least one protrusion.

265. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said bearing surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from said bearing surface and said at least one protrusion has a height less than the height of said flange.

266. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 251, wherein said component is, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

267. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first component having a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second component having a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra;

said first and second components being in articulating engagement with each other, and having midlines on their respective bearing surfaces passing approximately through the center of the bearing surface of said respective component, the first vertebra being adjacent the second vertebra to provide an intervertebral space;

a first flange extending outwardly from the midline of the first bearing surface of said first component; and

a second flange extending outwardly from the midline of the second bearing surface of said second component,

wherein each of said first and second flanges extends from a location adjacent an insertion end of said prosthetic joint toward another location adjacent a trailing end of said prosthetic joint and lies along the midline of the bearing surface of its respective component.

268. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 267, wherein at least one of (i) said first flange is the only flange on said first component and (ii) said second flange is the only flange on said second component.

269. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 267, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges has a height greater than its width.

270. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is configured for disposition in a preformed opening in the first and second vertebra, respectively, as said prosthetic joint moves into the intervertebral space.

271. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 270, wherein each of said first and second flanges is configured for disposition in a preformed opening in the

first and second vertebra, respectively, as said prosthetic joint moves into the intervertebral space.

272. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein each of said first and second flanges has a height greater than its width.

273. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 272, said prosthetic joint having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein each of said first and second flanges is elongated in an anterior to posterior plane of said prosthetic joint.

274. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 272, wherein both of said first and second flanges lie along a common plane passing through each of the respective midlines.

275. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 272, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is perpendicular to the bearing surface of its respective component.

276. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 275, wherein each of said first and second flanges is perpendicular to the bearing surface of its respective component.

277. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 272, wherein said first and second components of said prosthetic joint are adapted for implantation together along a path of insertion into the intervertebral space.

278. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 277, said prosthetic joint having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein the path of insertion is in a direction from the anterior to the posterior of said prosthetic joint.

279. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 277, wherein both of said first and second flanges are coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that said first and second flanges of said first and second components of said prosthetic joint, respectively, can be inserted together along a path of insertion into respective approximately vertically aligned preformed openings in the first and second vertebrae.

280. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 279, wherein said first and second components are operatively engaged to allow pivotability of said first component relative to said second component.

281. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 279, wherein said first and second components are operatively engaged to allow articulating motion between said first and second components.

282. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of the first and second bearing surfaces is adapted for contacting its respective vertebra.

283. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of the first and second bearing surfaces is adapted for anchoring to its respective vertebra.

284. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein said first component comprises a concave recess, said second component comprises a convex projection, and the concave recess and convex projection are operatively engaged with each other.

285. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein said prosthetic joint is adapted for use as a total disc replacement.

286. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein said prosthetic joint is constructed to be the sole prosthetic joint in the intervertebral space.

287. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 267, wherein said prosthetic joint is sized and shaped to substantially correspond to the size and shape of a vertebral endplate of at least one of the first and second vertebra.

288. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein both of said first and second flanges are approximately coplanar and vertically aligned with each other, such that said first and second flanges are configured for penetration into respective essentially vertically aligned preformed openings in the first and second vertebrae.

289. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein the height of at least one of said first and second flanges is greater than the height of the remainder of its respective first or second component.

290. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 289, wherein each of said first and second flanges is greater in height than the height of the remainder of its respective first or second component.

291. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein the overall length of at least one of said first and second flanges in the direction of a path of insertion of said prosthetic joint is greater than one half of the overall dimension of its respective first or second component in the direction of insertion.

292. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 291, wherein the overall length of each of said first and second flanges in the direction of a path of insertion of said prosthetic joint is greater than one half of the overall dimension of its respective first or second component in the direction of insertion.

293. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, said prosthetic joint having an anterior and a posterior, and wherein an overall anterior to posterior length of each of said first and second flanges is greater than one half of an overall anterior to posterior dimension of its respective first or second component.

294. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from the bearing surface of its respective component.

295. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of said first and second flanges is a single piece elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of said prosthetic joint.

296. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 295, wherein both of said first and second flanges are single pieces elongated in respective planes that are parallel to the path of insertion of said prosthetic joint.

297. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of said first and second bearing surfaces comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from said respective bearing surface and said at least one protrusion has a height no greater than the width of the at least one protrusion.

298. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of said first and second bearing surfaces comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from said respective bearing surface and said at least one protrusion has a height less than the height of said flange of the respective bearing surface.

299. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 269, wherein at least one of said first and second components is, in plan view, rectangular in shape.

300. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 299, wherein both of said first and second components is, in plan view, rectangular in shape.

301. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint, which component is adapted to cooperate with at least one other element to form an intervertebral prosthetic joint, said component comprising:

a bearing surface for engaging a vertebra and an articular surface for operatively engaging another element of said prosthetic joint, wherein said component has a midline on said bearing surface passing approximately through the center of said bearing surface; and

a flange extending from the midline of said bearing surface, wherein said flange has a height greater than its width and is elongated along and straddles the midline.

302. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said flange is elongated in a plane parallel to a path of insertion of said component.

303. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 302, wherein the overall length of said flange in the direction of the path of insertion of said component is greater than one half of the overall dimension of said component in the direction of insertion.

304. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said flange is a single uninterrupted solid piece extending outwardly from the bearing surface of said component.

305. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein the overall anterior to posterior length of said flange is greater than one half of the overall anterior to posterior dimension of said component.

306. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said flange is perpendicular to said bearing surface.

307. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said bearing surface is adapted for contacting the vertebra.

308. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said flange is adapted to penetrate a preformed opening in the vertebra as said component moves into an intervertebral space.

309. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein the height of said flange is greater than the height of the remainder of said component.

310. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said bearing surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from said bearing surface, and said at least one protrusion has a height no greater than the width of the at least one protrusion.

311. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said bearing surface comprises at least one protrusion oriented outwardly from said bearing surface, and said at least one protrusion has a height less than the height of said flange.

312. (New) A component for an intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 301, wherein said component is, in plan view, generally rectangular in shape.

313. (New) An intervertebral implant according to claim 84, including apertures in the trailing ends of the upper and lower parts for receiving inserting instruments.

314. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 196, including channels in at least one of said first and second components configured to engage a corresponding portion of a surgical instrument.